

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the present Application are shown below whether or not an amendment has been made. Claims 1, 18 and 25-28 are amended. Claims 9-17 are withdrawn. New Claims 29 and 30 are added. Applicant submits that no new matter is added to the present application through the addition of new claims or amendments to the existing claims. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming an entry well bore from the surface;

forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone; **and**

forming a substantially horizontal drainage pattern from the slanted well bores into the subterranean zone; **and**

forming a rat hole associated with each slant well bore and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

2. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the two or more slanted well bores are radially spaced approximately equally around the vertical well bore.

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein three slanted well bores are formed.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 3, wherein the three slanted well bores are radially spaced around the vertical well bore approximately 120 degrees apart.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal drainage patterns comprise lateral well bores.

6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 5, wherein the lateral well bores are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

B1 7. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the horizontal drainage patterns to the surface.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in each of the slanted well bores proximate to the subterranean zone.

9. **(Withdrawn)** A guide tube bundle, comprising:
two or more guide tubes;
wherein the two or more guide tubes comprise a first aperture at a first end and a second aperture at a second end;
wherein the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other; and
wherein the longitudinal axis of the first apertures are offset from the longitudinal axis of the second apertures.
10. **(Withdrawn)** The guide tube bundle of Claim 9, wherein the guide tubes are twisted around one another.
11. **(Withdrawn)** The guide tube bundle of Claim 10, wherein the twist comprises approximately 10 degrees.
12. **(Withdrawn)** The guide tube bundle of Claim 9, wherein:
the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other at the first ends;
and
the guide tubes are separated at the second ends.

13. **(Withdrawn)** A method for orienting well bores, comprising:
forming an entry well bore from the surface;
inserting a guide tube bundle into the entry well bore, the guide tube bundle comprising:
two or more guide tubes, wherein:
the two or more guide tubes comprise a first aperture at a first end and a second aperture at a second end;
the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other; and
the longitudinal axis of the first apertures are offset from the longitudinal axis of the second apertures; and
forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore, through the guide tube bundle.
14. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 13, wherein:
the first aperture of each guide tube is oriented horizontally; and
the second aperture of each guide tube is oriented at an angle relative to the first aperture.
15. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 13, wherein the guide tubes are twisted around one another.
16. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 15, wherein the twist comprises approximately 10 degrees.
17. **(Withdrawn)** The method of Claim 13, wherein:
the guide tubes are configured longitudinally adjacent to each other at the first ends;
and
the guide tubes are separated at the second ends.

¹⁰
~~18.~~ (Currently Amended) A system for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

an entry well bore extending from the surface;

two or more slanted well bores extending from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone; **and**

a substantially horizontal drainage pattern extending from the slanted well bores into the subterranean zone; **and**

a rat hole associated with each slant well bore and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

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~~19.~~ (Original) The system of Claim ^{10, 19}~~18~~, wherein the two or more slanted well bores are radially spaced approximately equally around the vertical well bore.

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~~20.~~ (Original) The system of Claim ¹⁰~~18~~, further comprising three slanted well bores.

¹³
~~21.~~ (Original) The system of Claim ¹²~~20~~, wherein the three slanted well bores are radially spaced around the vertical well bore approximately 120 degrees apart.

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~~22.~~ (Original) The system of Claim ^{10, 11}~~18~~, wherein the horizontal drainage patterns comprise lateral well bores.

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~~23.~~ (Original) The system of Claim ¹⁴~~22~~, wherein the lateral well bores are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

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~~24.~~ (Original) The system of Claim ¹⁰~~18~~, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity in each of the slanted well bores proximate to the subterranean zone.

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~~25.~~ (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming two or more slanted well bores extending to the subterranean zone, the two or more slanted well bores formed from a common drilling pad; ~~and~~

forming in the subterranean zone one or more substantially horizontal drainage patterns each intersecting at least one of the slanted well bores; and

forming a rat hole associated with each slant well bore and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

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~~26.~~ (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ¹⁸~~25~~, ~~and~~ further comprising:
~~conducting fluid to the two or more slanted wellbores by a drainage pattern; and~~
collecting the fluid in the rat hole associated with each of the two or more slanted well bores; and

pumping the fluid to the surface using a submersible pump positioned in the rat hole.

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~~27~~ (Currently Amended) A method for accessing a subterranean zone from the surface, comprising:

forming an entry well bore from the surface;

forming two or more slanted well bores from the entry well bore to the subterranean zone; **and**

forming in the subterranean zone one or more substantially horizontal drainage patterns each intersecting at least one of the slanted well bores; **and**

forming a rat hole associated with each slant well bore and extending below the substantially horizontal drainage pattern, the rat hole formed such that water and other fluids from the subterranean zone drain through the substantially horizontal drainage pattern and collect in the rat hole to facilitate removal of the fluids from the subterranean zone.

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~~28~~ (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~27~~²⁰, **and** further comprising:
~~conducting fluid to the two or more slanted wellbores by a drainage pattern; and~~
collecting the fluid in the **rat hole associated with each of the** two or more slanted well bores; **and**

pumping the fluid to the surface **using a submersible pump positioned in the rat hole.**

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~~29~~ (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising positioning a submersible pump in the rat hole, the submersible pump operable to remove the water and other fluids collected in the rat hole from the subterranean zone.

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~~30~~ (New) The system of Claim ¹⁰~~18~~, further comprising a submersible pump positioned in the rat hole, the submersible pump operable to remove the water and other fluids collected in the rat hole from the subterranean zone.